

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Rm 520
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

From: (Public Agency): Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency
701 Ocean Street, Rm 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Monterey County Clerk (Address)
168 W Alisal St #1
Salinas, CA 93901

Project Title: Pajaro River Project

Project Applicant: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency

Project Location - Specific:

An approx. 10,000-ac area located in the lower Pajaro River watershed.

Project Location - City: Watsonville Project Location - County: Santa Cruz and Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Pajaro River Project will provide 100-year flood protection to the City of Watsonville, the Town of Pajaro, and surrounding agricultural areas by constructing levees and improvements along the lower Pajaro River and its tributaries. The \$600 million project will be managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (PRFMA) and the CA Department of Water Resources.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (nonfederal sponsor)

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Assembly Bill 876 (2023, uncodified)

Reasons why project is exempt:

Pursuant to AB 876, the Final General Reevaluation Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment (revised December 2019) prepared by the Army Corps (GRR/ EA) is conclusively presumed to satisfy the requirements of CEQA for the approval of the Project, defined as "the project for flood control on the Pajaro River and its tributaries in the Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz, as authorized by Public Law 89-789 and Public Law 101-64", provided all enumerated criteria apply to the components of the Project to which they are applicable. The Agency has adopted Resolution 2023-16 finding and determining all applicable criteria apply and the Project is exempt from further review pursuant to AB 876.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Mark Strudley Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-535-3788

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 12/15/23 Title: Executive Director

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____